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## Murdered genius: Felix Nussbaum

The Magazine



## Walter Blanding: Ambassador of jazz

Time Out

# Clinton hopeful on Syrian track

By HILLEL KUTTLER and agencies

WASHINGTON - President Bill Clinton said yesterday that talks with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu have left him encouraged about prospects for resuming Israeli-Syrian peace talks, although he offered no specifics.

"I'm hopeful we can get the Syrian track going again... I do feel encouraged by the discussions we've had, that there are things worth working on; but I have nothing specific to say at this time," Clinton told a White House press conference.

The talks between the two leaders, which lasted for some three hours, focused on both the state of Israeli-Palestinian relations as well as reviving Israeli-Syrian negotiations, now dormant for nearly a year.

Clinton said he would "very much" like to see the talks resume, calling them "a very important part" of the peace process, and said he is convinced both sides want to come back to the negotiating table. He added that he was "encouraged" by ideas he'd heard from Netanyahu, but would not elaborate.

Clinton affirmed that even if the rumored sale of 100 F-16 fighters to Saudi Arabia goes through, the US will assure Israel's continued qualitative edge. He also stated that the US would "do what we can to assure" that Russian assistance in developing a long-range missile for Iran would not erode



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu meets with US President Bill Clinton in the Oval Office yesterday.

(Reuters)

Israel's edge. The president also supported statements made earlier in the

week by US Ambassador to Israel Martin Indyk, that a unilateral Israeli withdrawal from southern

Lebanon would not be wise. However, he said the US should be "deferential" on the matter and

not dictate how Israel determines its security needs in the North. The upcoming delivery this year

to Israel of F-15 fighters, as well as continued cooperative development of a theater missile-defense program and the Arrow missile, would "strengthen Israel's defense against attacks."

Netanyahu responded by lauding Clinton's "unshakeable commitment to Israel's security" and said he left their meeting with a "renewed confidence" in Israel's ability to pursue peace.

"The pursuit of peace and the practice of terror are incompatible. For negotiations to succeed, there must be a climate of stability and tranquility," Clinton said.

Asked about the case of Hamas political leader Moussa Abu Marzook, currently detained in New York pending extradition to Israel, Clinton said the matter was not discussed in the meeting and that he "cannot discuss it until it's resolved in our courts."

There were reports earlier that Israel was seeking to have Marzook be deported to Jordan so as not to test Hamas threats to carry out retaliatory acts of terror should he be extradited to Israel for trial.

Clinton said he believes Netanyahu "has thought through a way" to maintain the momentum of the Hebron accord, consistent with Israel's security needs.

"It's obvious he's been thinking very hard about this," Clinton said. "I was encouraged by that."

The president called Tuesday's

Continued on Page 14

## Bank workers strike today

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

The country's bank workers, with the exception of those at Maritime Bank and Carmel Bank, will strike today as part of their struggle to move to a five-day workweek.

For over two years, the banking sector's 40,000 workers have been pushing, with the Histadrut's support, to shift from a six- to a five-day workweek.

"All banks will be closed with the exception of border crossing branches," said Zion Shema, head of the Histadrut's bank workers division.

Bank spokesmen said automatic teller machines and bank telephone services will be operating.

If the banking sector strikes, Friday will not be considered a business day, the Bank of Israel said yesterday.

Earlier this week, the National Labor Court reject-

## Public against Friday bank closure, Page 18

ed the Banks Association's application to issue an injunction prohibiting the strike.

The workers' committees claim bank managers refusal to sign a five-day workweek agreement leaves them no option but to strike every Friday, starting this week.

In most cases, Shema said, the managers are refusing to even discuss the issue with workers, even though the Antitrust Court, which was asked to approve the transition to a five-day workweek, ruled that the employees' demand is legitimate, but must not be met by the banks as a group.

"We have never been so determined to strike as we

Continued on Page 18

## Outrage over 'Holocaust cookbook'

By TOM GROSS

A book of 82 recipes written by women in a Nazi concentration camp has become a surprise publishing success in the United States, pleasing some and outraging many. The recipes - including ones for chicken galantine, breast of goose, apple omelette, and cherry-plum dumplings - were written in the so-called "model" Nazi camp of Terezin, where internees were briefly allowed to pursue artistic activities including drama, opera, and drawing to dupe the International Red Cross.

*In Memory's Kitchen: A Legacy from the Women of Terezin* was named down by over 30 publishers before the small Brooklyn-based Judaica Press agreed to accept it. An initial print run of 3,000 sold out and there have been several further printings to keep up with demand. It has been reviewed in *The New York Times*, and several magazines have featured its recipes.

Translated by Bianca Steiner Brown, a survivor of Terezin who went on to become an editor at *Gourmet* magazine, the book's foreword was written by Michael Berenbaum, director of the US

Holocaust Museum in Washington.

While some call the publication of *In Memory's Kitchen* an inspired testimony to the survival of the spirit under nightmarish conditions, others dismiss the "Holocaust cookbook" as being in the worst possible taste. Efraim Zurorf, director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Israel office, called the publication "sick."

"It's beyond me why anyone would publish a cookbook of imaginary recipes," said Zurorf. "Is this going to compete with imaginary cookbooks from Auschwitz or Treblinka? I'm sure the imaginary recipes there were much more descriptive as the conditions were far worse."

## Dow tops 7,000

NEW YORK (Reuters) - The Dow Jones industrial average closed above 7,000 points for the first time yesterday, reflecting low interest rates and non-inflationary economic growth. Based on early and unofficial data, the Dow ended up 61.19 points, or 0.88 percent, at a record 7,022.82.

## Croatian president appeals for ties with Israel

By STEVE RODAN

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, boycotted by Israel because of his controversial book, has appealed to the government of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to establish full diplomatic ties with his country.

"I look forward to the most comprehensive, deepest relations between Israel and Croatia," he said in an interview with *The Jerusalem Post*. "We think that Israel can represent a positive model. The Israeli experience is very important for us."

Tudjman said Croatia wants to establish ties in many areas, particularly in defense. He said Zagreb seeks Israel's help in military modernization and industrial cooperation.

Last month, Tudjman published the English-language edition of his book, retitled *Horror of War*, which will be distributed in several weeks in the US. The original book, which had included quotes deemed antisemitic, had angered Jews and Israelis.

"The English edition is a revised edition," he said. "We omitted parts that were delicate and even irritating to a portion of those Jewish readers who didn't read all the book but who heard about the book or came across excerpts that

came from Serbian circles inimical to Croatia and Tudjman."

They interpreted these excerpts to mean that the book was antisemitic, he said.

Meanwhile, Israeli officials said that they are in no rush to establish

relations with Zagreb. They said they will need time to read Tudjman's book and determine whether it has resolved Jewish concerns.

A full interview with Tudjman appears in today's *Magazine*.

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# NEWS

in brief

## Rafiah crossing closed after stabbing attack

Israel closed the Rafiah crossing between the Gaza Strip and Egypt yesterday, after a visitor from Egypt stabbed and lightly wounded an Israeli security man.

The attacker, who was heading back to Egypt after his visit to Gaza, lunged at the Airports Authority employee for no apparent reason.

An IDF officer and a Palestinian policeman quickly subdued the attacker and he was arrested. The wounded man was treated at the scene and taken to Soroka Hospital in Beersheba, where he was reported in good condition. The authority announced it was closing the boarder crossing until the investigation into the attack was completed.

*Arieh O'Sullivan*

## Report: Ya'acobi knew of Albright's heritage

Former Israeli ambassador to the UN Gad Ya'acobi knew of Madeleine Albright's Jewish roots in 1994 and reported the news privately to Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres, *The Washington Post* reported yesterday. The newspaper revealed last week that Albright's parents were Jews who converted to Christianity in the late 1930s but did not tell their children. Ya'acobi said he learned the same facts through an Austrian-born British Jew, George Weidenfeld, who knew Albright's father, Josef Korbel, in London after the family fled the Nazis.

Weidenfeld, however, told *The Associated Press* that he had never discussed his heritage with Albright's father and had no proof that he was Jewish.

*Hillel Kuntler*

## Islamic group calls for terror on US, Israel

A Moslem extremist group operating in Egypt threatened yesterday to use violence to win freedom for jailed Islamic leaders. The statement, from the Islamic Group, specifically mentioned Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman, an Egyptian cleric jailed in the United States, and Mousa Abu Marzook, a Hamas leader facing extradition to Israel from America. "The American and Zionist terrorism will only be stopped with similar or stronger terrorism," the group said in a statement. It did not say what action it planned, but called on Moslems "to besetge American embassies in their countries and demand from their leaders to shut them down."

*AP*

## Man killed, boy hurt on roads

A bicyclist was killed and a six-year-old boy seriously injured in road accidents yesterday. A car hit the bicyclist, who was riding on the side of a dark road in Gan Yavne, and he was declared dead at the scene. The Or Yehuda boy got off the van that brought him from school, ran across the street in front of the van and was hit by a passing car. He was brought to Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer.

*Itim*

# Scuffles break out in Hebron

By HERB KEINON and MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Hebron Jews and Arabs exchanged volleys of oranges, apples, and eggs yesterday, during a confrontation that developed when Palestinians opened stores prematurely in a market opposite the Avraham Avinu complex.

On Wednesday, Palestinian and Israeli inspectors unlocked the shutters to the stores, closed since Baruch Goldstein murdered 29 Moslem worshipers in the Machpela Cave in 1994, to examine them in advance of their intended reopening, which has not yet been announced. They then relocated the stores.

Yesterday several shopowners, in full view of numerous foreign journalists and cameramen stationed in Hebron, attempted to open their shops. They were also observed by an IDF patrol, which told them they were not allowed to open the stores yet. A crowd gathered and the patrol called for reinforcements.

"This is my shop," said Faiz Jabari, standing in the doorway of a fruit store where he said he will soon be selling bananas.

"This is a victory," someone else in the crowd yelled out.

Several Palestinians then started peeling off a sign pasted on the inside of one of the metal shutters in Jabari's store, apparently by one of Hebron's Jews, which said that the market is built on land stolen from Jews after the 1929 massacre. This prompted Hebron Jewish community leader Noam Arnon, speaking in English in camera range, to declare, "You can tear off the posters, but you can't change the truth. This market was built on land stolen from Jews."

Shortly afterward the reinforcements—about 20 Nahal soldiers—arrived and pushed back the crowd of some 100 Palestinians. The soldiers showed restraint, despite being taunted by dozens of Palestinian schoolchildren. By that time, a number of women and children from the Avraham Avinu neighborhood had gathered at the scene. As a few Palestinian men began, with some success, to disperse the children, someone from the women's side



An IDF soldier yesterday tells a Hebron shopkeeper that he is not yet permitted to reopen his store. Scuffles broke out between Palestinians and Jews from the nearby Avraham Avinu neighborhood when a crowd gathered during the confrontation. (Reuters)

threw a can containing what appeared to be firecrackers into the crowd. Their sound going off triggered an exchange of oranges, apples, and eggs.

A number of Hebron Municipality inspectors eventually helped the soldiers and a contingent of Israeli policemen to disperse the crowd, while being

berated by some of the Jews. "There are 50 kids here, and an entire army can't move them," Hebron resident Anat Cohen shouted at the soldiers. "This is a disgrace."

Earlier in the day, to protest the imminent opening of the market, some 100 Jews went into the wholesale market on the other side

of Avraham Avinu, which is off limits to Jews.

"If they are going to open the market here [near Avraham Avinu], then we should be able to go there," Arnon said. "If they are removing the restraints, then they must be removed for everyone."

Arnon said this was the first of a series of protest actions.

knife and later for conspiring to kidnap a soldier.

Among the notables who attended the event organized by the Ramallah-based Women's Committee for Social Work were Ahmed Tibi, adviser to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat; Yasser Abed Rabbo, PA Minister of Culture, Arts and Information; and women's rights activist Zahira Kamal.

Many friends and relatives also attended.

## US pledges to help Israel retain qualitative edge

By DAVID MAKOVSKY

The US will seek to "reconcile" Saudi and Israeli needs in the event that the US goes through with plans to sell 100 F-16 fighter planes to Riyadh, US National Security adviser Samuel (Sandy) Berger recently told pro-Israel activists who expressed concern about the implications of a sale.

According to American sources, Berger told the group that he agreed with the idea that "the US would like to help Saudi modern-

ization while retaining Israel's qualitative edge."

However, the entire issue of an F-16 sale remains premature since the Saudis have reported internal differences on whether they should be spending money on the planes. Therefore, it remains unclear to what extent—if any—Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan will raise this issue during his current visit to the US.

Claiming money problems, the Saudis have expressed interest in a creative financing approach. According to American sources, one idea being floated would enable the US to lease the planes to Saudi Arabia while, in return,

the Saudis would lease oil to the US strategic petroleum reserve.

Apparently, due to doubts that the sale will even take place, before travelling to Washington Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu did not finalize what sort of US assistance he would request as an offset to any US weapon sales to Saudi Arabia.

Netanyahu has made clear that he would not oppose the sale.

Sources say that should Israel seek offsetting assistance, it should be recalled that Israel retains interest in attaining access to US stealth technology currently being developed by the US for its highly sophisticated F-22 jets.

## Reunion for released Palestinian women

By ESTHER HECHT

The reception at Ramallah City Hall was a strange cross between a class reunion and a pilgrimage. A dozen of the 30 Palestinian women prisoners released Tuesday night sat in a row at one end of a large room while a constant stream of well-wishers lined up to greet them.

Some of the former prisoners were in traditional Moslem garb and some were in snappy Western dress. Despite these differences, they had bonded closely during their incarceration, according to Esmat Abu-Saa, 30, of Tulkarm.

"We are one hand, one body," said Abu-Saa, who was imprisoned twice, once for carrying a

knife and later for conspiring to kidnap a soldier.

Among the notables who attended the event organized by the Ramallah-based Women's Committee for Social Work were Ahmed Tibi, adviser to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat; Yasser Abed Rabbo, PA Minister of Culture, Arts and Information; and women's rights activist Zahira Kamal.

Many friends and relatives also attended.

## Winning cards and numbers

In yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the eight of spades, the seven of hearts, the jack of diamonds and the queen of clubs.

In last night's weekly Paysis Hazak drawing, the holder of ticket number 245389 won NIS 1 million, while ticket number 029343 was good for a new car.

Those holding tickets numbered 166472, 618735, 629674, 005713, 155134, 359995, 401069 and 662740 all won NIS 5,000. Tickets ending in 75718, 60150, 18325, 05662, 78857, 75388, 37884, 18883, 29938, 44348, 63592, 81935, 90549, 10772, 19913, 92745, 53422, 53791 and 11351 were good for NIS 1,000, while those holding tickets ending in 138, 525, 839 or 239 won NIS 100; in 37, 24, 69 or 33, NIS 30; in 82 or 96, NIS 20; and in 1 or 5, NIS 10.

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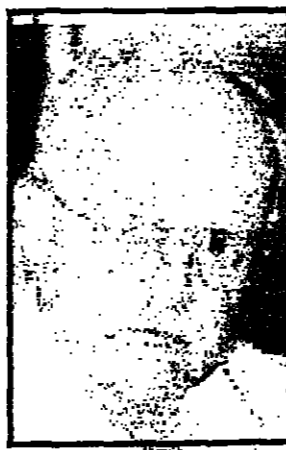
By **ARIEH O'SULLIVAN**

The board of inquiry investigating last week's helicopter collision in the North that killed 73 soldiers is to present its interim findings to Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai today. Mordechai has ordered that the findings be discussed with the families of the fallen and by the government before they are released to the public. However, sources close to inquiry, headed by former OC Air Force and Defense Ministry director-general David Ivry, said

human error was the likely cause of the crash. Nothing dramatic is expected in the interim findings. Mordechai is to update President Ezer Weizman and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu on the contents of the report. This morning, Mordechai is to discuss the interim findings and their ramifications with Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak and OC Air Force Maj.-Gen. Eitan Ben-Eliyahu. Mordechai's media adviser Avi Benayahu stressed that the report is an interim one and should be

treated as such. The commission was given 45 days to submit its full report. The five-man panel has spent the days since the collision questioning witnesses, going over radio transmissions and flying in a CH-53 helicopter to try to determine how the two helicopters collided above the northern border settlement of Sha'ar Yashuv. The CH-53 helicopter, also known as the Yasur, is not fitted with a "black box" to record flight information. Military sources have said that the heli-

copters were not flying in formation but were waiting together for permission to cross the border into Lebanon when the collision occurred. Channel 2 reported that there was at least one witness to the collision. One helicopter apparently slammed into the other and plummeted to the ground. The pilot of the second helicopter radioed "I have a malfunction," ejected his fuel tanks and tried to stabilize the helicopter to make an emergency landing, but failed. The commission is expected to



David Ivry (Han Osendryver/Israel Sun)

move on to consolidating new regulations and safety procedures to prevent future accidents.

## NEWS

in brief

### Golan Druse raise Syrian flag

Syrian flags were raised over schools in the Golan Heights Druse villages of Majdal Shams and Bukata yesterday, as residents prepared to mark today's anniversary of their general strike in 1982 against Israeli annexation and their being issued Israeli identity cards. The schools were closed as dozens of pupils took part in a parade in the main square in Majdal Shams. *David Rudge*

### Beit She'an Engines to keep running

The jobs of 35 workers at the troubled Beit She'an Engines factory were saved this week, after the Defense Ministry agreed to supply the firm with more orders. The owners of the 25-year-old company, which overhauls IDF vehicle engines, closed the factory last week and sent out dismissal notices, because there were not enough orders to keep going. *David Rudge*

### Peres apologizes for 'copter crash comments

Labor Chairman MK Shimon Peres apologized for talking of the need to "draw conclusions" about Israel's presence in Lebanon immediately after the helicopter collision last week, his media adviser, Aliza Goren said yesterday. Peres, who was in Switzerland at the time, commented soon after the accident, before he learned of the scope of the tragedy. Goren said. *Michal Yudelman*

## IAF continues Lebanon raids

By **DAVID RUDGE**

Tension remains high in Lebanon following further air force raids on suspected Hizbullah infiltration trails and targets north of the security zone late on Wednesday night and early yesterday. Reports from Lebanon said helicopter gunships raked crossing points over the Litani River and nearby wadis, north of Kawkabeh village, as well as in the region of

Markabeh and Talousa villages. According to the reports, helicopter gunships also were in action around the villages of Ein A-Tineh, Maidoun and parts of the southern reaches of the Bekaa Valley. The reports said that IDF gunners

shelled suspected Hizbullah targets in the Iqlim al-Toufah region and other areas north of the zone. Lebanese observers said it appeared the activities were preemptive and aimed primarily at thwarting Hizbullah attempts to plant bomb and infiltrate into the zone. The incidents yesterday followed IAF raids on Hizbullah targets and bases of Ahmed Jibril's PFLP-General Command in the Bekaa

Valley and south of Beirut on Tuesday. Those air strikes - the deepest into Lebanese territory since Operation Grapes of Wrath last April - were seen as a message to Syria and Lebanon to restrain Hizbullah. Israel Radio reported that the IDF is returning to full operational duties in south Lebanon following last week's helicopter disaster.

## France, Israel herald new, cooperative era

By **STEVE RODAN and ELMAD BECK**

France and Israel have agreed to step up cooperation in the fight against terrorism and to hold semi-annual dialogues on strategic issues, official said last night. Details of the new relationship were announced at a joint Tel Aviv news conference by visiting French Defense Minister Charles Millon and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai. Millon, who concluded a two-day visit in which he toured military bases and defense industries, said reciprocal visits would be made by the two countries' chiefs of staff. He added that Mordechai is to visit Paris in June with OC Air Force Maj.-Gen. Eitan Ben-Eliyahu. Regarding terrorism, Millon said, "We understand very well this threat to Israel. We promise the full cooperation of France in this sphere." He pledged that the French intelligence services would cooperate fully in exchanging information on terrorist organizations. Mordechai expressed satisfaction with the visit and expressed hope France would remain active in countering terrorism and acting against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. "I see you as the ambassador of the Israeli defense establishment in France," Mordechai told Millon. Interviewed yesterday by Europe 1 radio, Millon said

France is willing to join other countries - mainly the US - in guaranteeing a future treaty among Israel, Syria, and Lebanon in order to prove it is possible to implement the principle of land for peace. "For many years, France has maintained friendly relations with Israel and the Arab states, and it would like to offer its services to all parties for the success of the peace process," Millon said. French diplomatic sources said France might send buffer forces to help guarantee a settlement, but stressed it is not realistic to believe an agreement can be reached separately with Lebanon. The officials said earlier this week, after a meeting between French President Jacques Chirac and Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, that France "is willing to consider sending such a force only after a comprehensive agreement." Meanwhile, the French weekly, *Le Nouvel Observateur*, reported yesterday that France has proposed granting political asylum to Gen. Antoine Lahad, commander of the South Lebanese Army, as part of an international agreement on an Israeli withdrawal from the security zone. According to the magazine, the proposal was discussed at a secret meeting last December in Paris between French defense officials and Israeli emissaries, led by former Defense Ministry director-general David Ivry. Lahad's family already resides in France.

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### Corruption and conversion

This week's dramatic expose of an alleged bribes-for-conversion scheme by the Channel 2 program, *Fact*, was met with denials of widespread corruption from the Chief Rabbinate. The police are to be commended for moving quickly and remanding Rabbi Michael Dushinsky, who was filmed taking \$15,000 from a couple posing as would-be converts, and Rabbi Binyamin Bar-Zohar, who allegedly received most of the money to arrange a quick conversion with rabbinical courts. The Rabbinate had better move as quickly to clean house for itself.

In November, a representative of the World Union for Progressive Judaism in Israel testified before a Knesset committee that dozens of conversion candidates had complained to the Reform Movement about being asked for bribes by Rabbinate officials. At that time, Deputy Religious Affairs Minister Yigal Bibi responded that the complaint should be brought to the police. Since then, Bibi admitted, no action had been taken on the matter by the ministry.

The police say they have received many complaints of other cases of bribery since the program aired, and believe the phenomenon is widespread. It goes without saying that the police and the Rabbinate should not be satisfied with a narrow investigation in this case; they should work aggressively to root out corruption from wherever it has spread within rabbinical authority.

But the lessons of this scandal go beyond the matter of corruption to the wider problem of conversion in Israel. It is estimated that there are over 100,000 people here who want to convert to Judaism but cannot, because they do not meet the Rabbinate's criteria.

While there may be some who want to be Jews for opportunistic reasons, most prospective converts sincerely wish to join the Jewish people and become better integrated into Israeli society. Many wish to convert their adopted children. Beyond this tale of alleged corruption, which would be terrible enough in itself, is the human tragedy of the rejection of would-be Jews by the Jewish state.

The Reform and Conservative movements in Israel argue that this scandal is a classic case of absolute power corrupting absolutely. The crisis over conversions, however, is not just a function of the Orthodox monopoly in Israel, but of the steady movement to the right within Orthodoxy.

The main obstacle to conversion in Israel is the current Orthodox interpretation of the requirement to "accept the yoke of the mitzvot." While no one is suggesting this requirement be

waived, "acceptance" can be interpreted in either a broad or strict fashion. The first Sephardi chief rabbi of Israel, Ben-Zion Meir Uziel, did not regard a commitment to follow all the mitzvot to be a prerequisite for conversion. Today, however, would-be converts are being refused by the Rabbinate on the grounds that they live on a secular kibbutz, or are not willing to educate their children in the Orthodox school system, or for some other reason are suspected of not adhering to Orthodox practice.

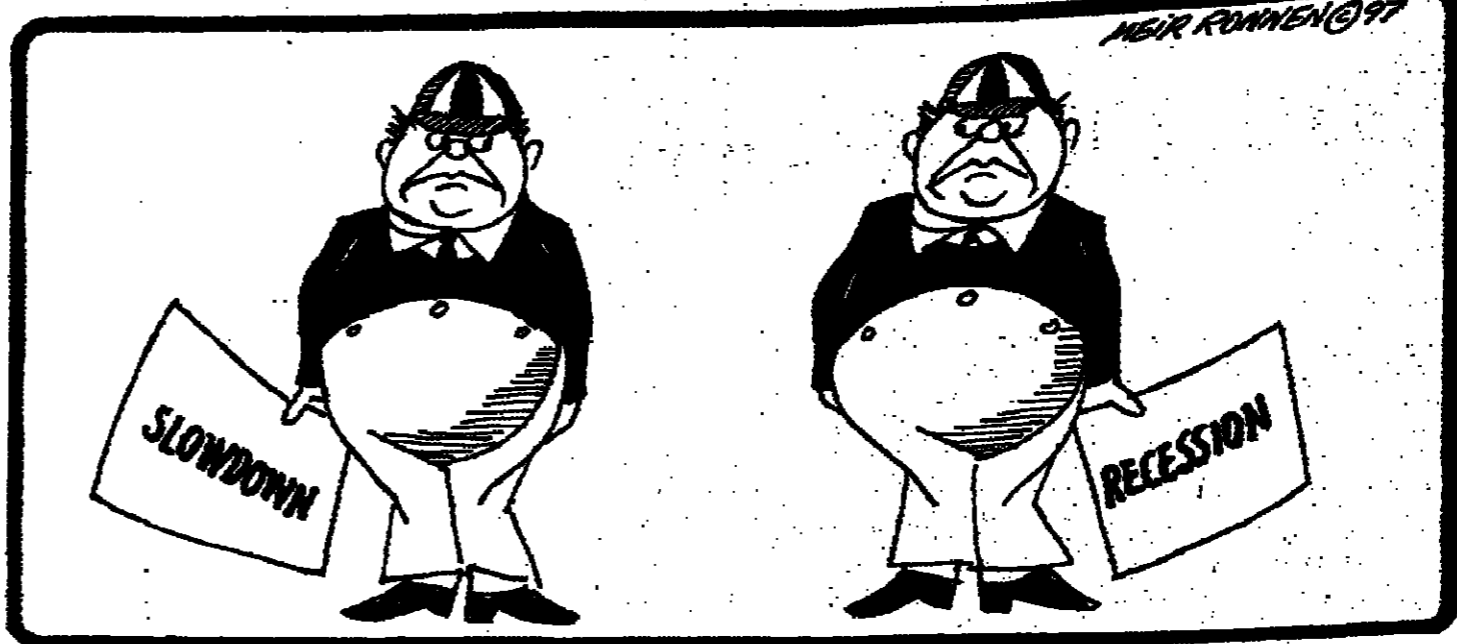
The Orthodox establishment believes that Reform and Conservative Judaism in general, and the lack of uniform conversion standards in particular, threaten to divide the Jewish people. The goal of a uniform standard is certainly a desirable one, if not an imperative. All strands of the Jewish world should be concerned about the potential of dividing into separate peoples that do not recognize one another as Jews.

The responsibility to avoid this division, however, falls on all three major branches of the Jewish people. In Israel, Reform and Conservative rabbis perform what they consider to be halachic conversions, while the Orthodox are moving in the other direction - becoming more stringent and less open to compromise.

If the real, wider conversion crisis is to be resolved, the Orthodox must bear a share of the responsibility to compromise. There is no intrinsic reason in Jewish law why it cannot be done. As the noted Orthodox author Rabbi Eliezer Berkovitz has written, "Within Halacha there are possibilities for an approach between the various ideological groupings of the Jewish people. ... [T]he responsibility of striving for unity in the spirit of 'love of Israel' is equally binding on all of us ... Halacha has to be stretched to its limits in order to further Jewish unity and mutual understanding."

The irony of the Orthodox trend toward stringency is that, in the name of preserving the Jewish character of Israel and avoiding a split within the Jewish people, its actual effect is exactly the opposite. Because it is so difficult to convert, many people who would become Jewish for the best of reasons are having the door shut in their faces by the Jewish state. Because the Orthodox establishment places such a high value on stringency, the greater value of Jewish unity is falling by the wayside.

Solving the problem of corruption in the Rabbinate is a great enough challenge, but it is only a prerequisite for confronting and reversing a long slide toward extremism. If there is a silver lining to this scandal, it is the hope that it might spark such a reexamination.



## Unfreeze the Syrian track

ABBA EBAN

I tamar Rabinovitch's book *The Road Not Taken* portrays me as urging prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu to negotiate with the Syrian dictator Hafez Assad back in 1949! Those who say history cannot be changed have never read an elder statesman's memoirs.

The relevance of this snippet from a distant past is simply that I have never believed peace in the Middle East to be durable unless Syria is part of the settlement.

It is true that Syria at that time "only" wanted half of Lake Kinneret, but I was confident that Ben-Gurion would know how to say no with maximal resonance.

The principle of never refusing negotiation should have prevailed then; it should prevail now over the obstacles that make success a dubious prospect.

History has come full circle, and the central role of Syria as the real bridge to the 21st century has penetrated our governmental bulwarks.

When Yitzhak Rabin decreed that the future of the Golan would be determined in a plebiscite, he was never allowed to phrase the question.

If the question were: "Would you like to renounce the Golan?" there would be a resounding negative. But if it were, "Is a peace

treaty with Syria vital to the Israeli national interest, or not?" a positive response would be assured. This illustrates the inherent futility of public opinion polls.

Until recently the Netanyahu administration was saying that the Golan is not even a subject on the agenda. It is all ours, and that's it. Period.

It is unlikely that this will be the

estimating all the elements in their relative proportions. It involves taking long views and working for distant ends.

If you ask what good such attitudes are for domestic political advantage, the answer is: no good at all.

ISRAELI rule over the whole of the Golan region and a peace

### Since Netanyahu is bound to say 'land for peace' very soon - why not now?

prime minister's posture in Washington this critical week. In diplomacy you can't have everything.

Desirable ends are not always compatible with each other. Courage cannot always be reconciled with prudence, liberty with equality, sovereignty with concern for human rights, precise planning with the free flow of imagination.

That is why the diplomat is the bearer of a view of the outside world which his fellow citizens cannot always follow or accept.

The task of the peacemaker demands the intellectual gift of seeing all around a problem and

agreement with Syria are two things that most Israelis want. But if our government is worthy of its vocation, it must tell us plainly that we simply cannot have both.

There is no escape from the necessity of choice. Since Netanyahu is predestined to say "Okay - land for peace" in the very near future, why not now?

Demilitarization, buffer zones, monitored peacekeeping, mutual accessibility for negotiators, and security guaranteed by responsible international supervision are probably available now. They may not be available a year from now. Netanyahu's qualities will be

judged according to his ability to maneuver within the range of feasibility. This is a very far cry from the original Likud positions, such as leaving the Golan in Israel's exclusive hands, and pretending that we can satisfy Damascus with water and security.

If we are in quest of a stabilizing agreement, the worst thing is to talk of unilateral withdrawals or to paint the promises of Hizbullah or Hamas in fictitious terms. The notion that these adversaries would approach our frontiers and recoil from further incursions goes beyond anything that they have said, let alone anything they have ever done.

The times demand realism. I doubt that France, having renounced Algeria, is looking around for non-European engagement in active peacekeeping roles, or that an international peace force in southern Lebanon would be any easier to establish than it was in the Balkans.

It is more likely that stability will depend on Syrian and Israeli decisions alone.

The first law of negotiation is "Don't take positions from which you cannot retreat without losing face - or from which you cannot advance without perilous risk."

The writer is a former foreign minister.

## Moral of the story: Terror pays

ESTHER WACHSMAN

O ur nation is embroiled in a fierce and passionate debate over whether or not to withdraw unilaterally from the security zone in Lebanon. The issue has, of course, taken on greater urgency as a result of the tragic helicopter crash on a day of the heaviest Arab terrorist bombardment of our northern border.

Seventy-three of our sons lost their lives on their way to a "mission" in Lebanon. Even citizens living on the Lebanese border said it was too dear a price to pay for their security.

Are we willing to sacrifice the lives of 18-, 19-, and 20-year-olds for the sake of other lives? There is no clear-cut answer to this tormenting question.

Does the security zone protect the north of the country? Do Judea and Samaria protect Tel Aviv and Jerusalem? Did Sinai protect the Negev? These are not questions of sentiment and ideology, but of pragmatism and security.

We now have a Palestinian entry in the heart of Israel. Is it a good neighbor, or an enemy? We are in the midst of a peace process, begun by Yitzhak Rabin and continued by Benjamin Netanyahu. But Netanyahu was elected on a platform of "peace with security." The promise of "reciprocity" was a key element in his victory.

Meanwhile, what are the facts? To take a personal perspective, the man who masterminded the abduction and murder of my son Nachshon three years ago, Mohammed Deif, is still running free. Our government is not actively requesting his capture, arrest, or extradition.

When I met with President Clinton last February at the site of my son's grave on Mount Herzl, he assured me that, as guarantor of the Oslo accords, the US held

will not be released as a "concession to the peace process?"

LAST WEEK the body of Nachshon's murderer was returned to his family in Gaza. In Moslem law, without a proper religious Moslem burial, this murderer could not attain the status of "holy martyr." Our government granted him this status. Our family was neither notified nor

the Palestinians was a slap in the face to our family. In rewarding terror and murder, it was a degradation of Jewish life.

For as long as I can remember, every government in Israel firmly asserted that terrorists "with blood on their hands" would never be released. We freed Palestinian women murderers this week.

The message? Crime does pay, and terror pays even more.

Every "nationalist" potential killer now knows that, with enough pressure, he will eventually go free, even from Israeli prisons. Jewish blood has become cheap in the Jewish homeland.

### When killers go free and murderers are rewarded, Jewish blood has become cheap in the Jewish homeland

sanctuary and a hero's welcome within the areas of the Palestinian Authority.

The most recent was the murder of a Jerusalem contractor, Ya'acov Yemin. His killer calmly hailed a cab to Bethlehem, where he was given sanctuary, and no one is demanding justice. Even when killers are caught, they are given quick trials and sentences to prevent their being handed over to Israel.

According to Amnesty and the US State Department's annual human rights report, they are released shortly afterwards and swallowed up in the Palestinian controlled towns. Many are then recruited to the Palestinian Police - another travesty of morality and justice.

My son's kidnapers - the two who weren't blown up in the IDF action - were tried by an Israeli military court. Neither was given the maximum penalty, which in Israel isn't the death sentence, but life imprisonment. Who is to say that in some future "deal" they too

briefed in advance of this short-sighted action. We got the news from the media, who called and asked for our reaction.

Ironically it occurred the very day the Knesset Interior Committee met to discuss Baruch Goldstein's grave becoming a shrine for some Jews. The monument erected on the site was declared an obscene shame to our country.

The hypocrisy of this double standard - denouncing the "canonization" of Goldstein while helping create a Palestinian martyr - offends all logic.

The family of a Palestinian murderer must know that they will never bury their son, that he will never achieve holiness and inspire other "heroes" for the cause.

During World War II, when the US was faced with Moslem jihad terror in the Philippines, they smeared terrorists' bodies with pig fat, nullifying their sanctity, and the terror subsided.

Our government's sensitivity to

Let's salu

Where is the reciprocity? Shall we blindly press on in a one-sided race toward peace?

The writer's son Nachshon was killed by Hamas terrorists in October 1994.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**OBJECTIVE REPORTING**

Sir, - I wish to add to Melvin Fenton's letter of January 31 that the BBC's Lyce Douce's reporting is both incisive yet objective, and penetrating but balanced. Set against Sky's wild emotional outbursts by Peter Graves and some of CNN's reportage, her work is both honest and grounded in fact.  
Tel Aviv.  
MICHAEL ELTON

**ASHAMED**

Sir, - In response to Ann Hutchings' article of February 4, "Stick & tired." I am so ashamed of us. Has history taught us nothing?  
SHIRLEY HIRSCH  
Herzliya.

**VOTING ABROAD**

Sir, - Over and over, we are told that Americans living abroad are allowed to vote. Indeed, they are. They are also required to pay US income tax. Three cheers for the American way! Let's go all the way!  
AVINOAM P. SHARON  
Nili.

**INTOLERANT POLICY**

Sir, - The picture of January 31 of Conservative and Reform rabbis chained to benches in protest over the new Orthodox conversion policy surely raises some basic questions. Labeling, grading and categorizing are all very well for potatoes, eggs and tomatoes, not for human beings. Did Hitler differentiate between Orthodox, Reform and Conservative Jews? We all know the answer to that one. The intolerant policy of our so-called spiritual Orthodox leaders is dividing Israeli society. Our enemy is not without, but within, and like an internal cancer, it is leading us to destruction. United we stand, divided we fall.  
ANNA SOTTO  
Tivon.

**VICTOR AND VANQUISHED**

Sir, - Man has always fought wars; he who lost had to pay compensation to the victor. In ancient times, this compensation took the form of gold, silver, farm animals, slaves - in certain cases, even some of the vanquished king's wives and children.

In the 20th century, Germany fought and lost two wars. After World War I, it was obliged to pay huge amounts of money to the victorious allies, it was stripped of all its colonies in Africa and had to give back to France Alsace and those parts of Lorraine that it had occupied after winning the war against France in 1870-71.

After World War II, one of the conditions laid down by the allies was that Germany hand over to Poland a strip of land on its eastern border - land on which ethnic Germans had lived for generations. Syria lost two wars against Israel. According to international custom, Syria has no valid reason on which to base its demand that Israel hand back the Golan Heights, which are of enormous strategic importance for Israel's safety.

Since when is the victor required to pay compensation to the vanquished?  
MARCELLA SEGRE  
Jerusalem.

**SMOKING IS DANGEROUS**

Sir, - For shame, Larry Derfner! I usually enjoy your articles, but "Where's there's smoke there's fire" (January 27) made me furious. How can you even consider lending any credence to a pro-smoking point of view? A vast accumulation of evidence points to the fact (no hypothesis) that smoking is dangerous to the individual and ruinous to our already-jeopardized environment.

Any forward-looking newspaper ought to be in the forefront of a worldwide campaign for environmental safety, instead of wasting valuable news space on a self-defeating, anti-health fringe group!

LESLIE COHEN  
Ein Hashofet.

**SWEET REASON**

Sir, - Hats off to Susan Hatis Roleff! Her weekly article is essential reading for anyone seeking an intelligent, balanced view on the important issues of the day. Hers is the voice of sweet reason among so many commentators whose entrenched, dogmatic opinions do little, in my view, to raise the level of political debate.

If only her pragmatic attitude would be emulated by more of our politicians.  
COLIN MILLER  
Kfar Masaryk.

**AUSTRALIA-ISRAEL TRADE**

Sir, - Those pesky gremlins made an unwelcome contribution to your article of January 26 on Australia and Israel and in so doing understated the strength of the bilateral business relationship.

Two-way trade currently stands at around US\$320 million, of which Australian exports to Israel are \$80 million. (1995/6 was the first year ever in which Australian exports passed the Aus\$100 million mark.) At present, Australian coal exports to Israel are worth about US\$30 million.

It is a tribute to the energy and determination of the business in both countries that the value of two-way trade has doubled in the past decade.

PETER RODGERS,  
Australian Ambassador to Israel  
Tel Aviv.

**TEACHING TOLERANCE**

Sir, - I read with great interest your report of February 2 about the book published by Gan Harmony in Jerusalem. It teaches children not to make fun of anyone who is "different." It should be distributed free to every school in Israel.

I have read horrific stories of how some children treat new immigrants and poor children. (One child hanged himself because he couldn't afford school books and was afraid of how his classmates would treat him.)

I think both parents and teachers have been very remiss in not teaching children to be tolerant.  
NOMI KALISCH  
Netanya.

**SOME READERS** pointed out the origin of Cigarette Sellers Street, mentioned in a recent Postscript, about a new Kupat Holim Leumi medical center opening in Bat Yam.

The street was named after a group of Jewish children in the Warsaw Ghetto in 1943-44 who provided information to ghetto residents, smuggled in weapons and earned a meager livelihood by selling cigarettes. Some died in the Holocaust, but some of them survived and live here and abroad.

Their bravery and suffering was described in the book, *Mocheret Hasigariot Mik'kar Shloshet Hac'lamim*, written by Yosef Djamian and published by Yad Vashem in 1962. JSI

**A WITCH-BURNING** ceremony in Australia turned into a brawl when feminist protesters tried to drag an effigy of a witch from the top of a huge pyre.

Police were called to Casuarina Beach after reports of a disturbance during St. Hans' Day celebrations by Scandinavians. Police told the protesters, who had hidden in the six-meter high bonfire to stop it being lit before the brawl broke out, to leave.

Protester Marie Matthews said she felt sickened by the sight of the effigy. "It was the typical representation of a witch - long hair, wild warts on the nose, the hat - all the negative side of women."

"I knew there was no way I could allow this to go down - to me it was a representation of the

burning of womankind." Bonfire organizer Kai Hansen said the ceremony, believed to date back 1,200 years to Viking times, had never provoked trouble before.

"Then all of a sudden this year, this bunch turns up," he said. "They were screaming out things like 'That's me, that's my sister you're burning' and from the way they looked it was pretty hard not to yell back that they were right."

Hansen complained that the protesters "were throwing sand in our eyes, they were throwing burning wood at people. Luckily, it was very early in the evening. If it had been later and we'd had a couple more beers, it might have got out of hand," he said.

**STOP RIGHT** there or the rooster gets it!

A 70-year-old Long Island man took his flock of hens and roosters hostage, threatening to kill one each minute unless police and sanitation workers, sent to clean up his junk-filled yard, left the property.

Roderick Baker killed three chickens before being arrested.

Neighbors complained that the 50 animals he kept at his Uniondale, New York, home, were ruining the neighborhood.

"He just went whack," said Larry Wallach of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. "The neighbors were shocked. Nobody liked the chickens running around, but he was always very polite. You wouldn't expect this," said the next-door neighbor.

Handwritten text: 09/11/01/20

# Sad, this unilateral blunder...

Very likely we missed an opportunity this week to reopen negotiations with Syria. The small window that might have led to quiet talks between Jerusalem and Damascus on a Lebanon cease-fire slammed shut in Kochav Yair, where a group of politicians and former security people gathered to discuss ways and means of withdrawing from Lebanon.

We have no concrete proof that Syria is ready to reach any agreement with us on pacifying Lebanon. But international pressure for such an agreement has been growing, and Syria has called on Israel to renew talks.

Again, this doesn't necessarily mean Hafez Assad is genuinely willing to work for a cease-fire, but increasingly he cannot afford to ignore all the advice he has been getting from the US, France - and even from Lebanon itself - to the effect that he had better begin to deal with Israel, since there is no chance of the IDF withdrawing unilaterally from the security zone.

This is the kind of diplomatic exchange that passes between the two countries. Every envoy to Jerusalem from Damascus brings the clear message that Syria wants to renew talks with Israel, while every envoy in the other direction tells the Syrians that the first stages of talks must include arranging a cease-fire in Lebanon.

This is all very well as far as it goes, but clearly the contacts haven't yet attained the required level of sophistication, the important awareness by all concerned that a start in Lebanon would serve as a confidence-building measure, laying the groundwork for eventual territorial arrangements.

**MOSHE ZAK**

Nevertheless, we should not underestimate the "international manifesto" they have helped create, for it could push home the point to Assad that a Lebanon cease-fire has to be the first step in any deal.

There was a small chance that Syria would reassess its position and weigh the dangers involved in escalating the fighting in Lebanon against the enthusiastic support it would get from the US and France should it open negotiations with us.

## Noise here about an IDF withdrawal from Lebanon may have persuaded Damascus that it isn't time to deal

on more neutral, less ideological, issues. But noises here about a growing demand in the Israeli establishment for a unilateral IDF withdrawal from Lebanon has effectively swallowed up the quiet beginnings of real Israeli-Syrian communication.

The Kochav Yair group explained that they hadn't meant that the IDF should withdraw unilaterally, only in the context of an agreement. This didn't help. Beirut, Damascus, and Tehran interpreted the group's deliberations as an unconditional surrender to terrorism, as a flight from Lebanon under Hizballah pressure.

Yet Israel had to show the Syrians that they were playing with fire. Lack of an Israeli-Syrian agreement in Lebanon could well mean an escalation of terror there. This week, in response to such terror, IAF planes reached as far as

lesson 13 years ago, when terrorists killed many scores of their Marines.)

They have also forgotten the report from new UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on last year's IDF fire at the UN camp at Kana, where the Hizballah terrorists had taken refuge.

They have learned nothing from the past; indeed, they hardly know what is going on in the present - which is why they are busy circulating empty slogans about an international security regime that will fill the vacuum left by the IDF withdrawal from the security zone.

The Syrians should take note of Egypt's mistake at the end of the 1960s.

Israel suggested a foreign ministers' meeting in Nicosia. At first the Egyptians agreed, and even named a representative, but then they changed their minds without explanation.

Some said it was because of reports of uproar in Israel over a government believed not to be doing enough for peace - and the Egyptians thought they would wait for the social disintegration that must inevitably follow before they came to any negotiations.

But that disintegration did not occur, and a chance for peace was lost.

The Syrians needn't repeat this mistake. If they view Kochav Yair in the correct perspective, they will see that there has been no revolution in our strategy.

Simply: Israel will not sit down to any negotiation on the Golan with Syria holding a pistol made in Lebanon to its head.

The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on current affairs.



# Questionable use of the lie detector

As Judge Elyakim Rubinstein begins his service as attorney-general, the issue raised by his refusal to take a lie detector test remains unresolved.

No one has seriously suggested that this refusal affects Rubinstein's suitability for the office. Nor has anyone suggested that the fact that Roni Bar-On (presumably, he is the subject of the lie detector test, even serving a day in office, demonstrated that he was a suitable appointee.

Who gave lie detector tests a bad name? Was it Elyakim Rubinstein, who refused to submit to one because of his principled objection that it was an unwarranted intrusion into his personal privacy and a violation of his basic rights? Or was it Roni Bar-On, who was tested and found trustworthy? The verdict is still not in.

It would be interesting to know the subjects Bar-On was questioned on during his test. No specific issue was being investigated at the time.

It is a safe assumption that the questions he has been asked in recent days - regarding his relationship with Arieh Deri, David Appel, and Avigdor Lieberman - were not posed in the course of his lie detector test.

Conventionally, the polygraph, or lie detector, is not considered an instrument for judging character. When there is no specific subject for investigation, it has limited utility.

Even if Bar-On emerges unscathed from the present investigation, he has already demonstrated that the polygraph has its limitations in qualifying a candidate for appointment to high office.

**ALLAN E. SHAPIRO**

Lie detector tests are no substitute for trust. Judge Rubinstein enjoys virtually universal trust, with or without a polygraph test. Hence the decision of the government approving his appointment, despite his principled objection to submitting to the electronic inquisitor.

There was no need for the government to get involved in the basic question of the propriety of using the polygraph to test senior civil servants. It should have satisfied itself with the solution of the specific problem before it. For

## Surely a senior civil servant can be spared the electronic inquisitor?

this, it did not require expert opinions on the utility of lie detector tests. All that was needed was a modicum of ordinary common sense.

Even Internal Security Minister Kahalim, the minister most directly involved in the issue, expressed surprise that a person with Rubinstein's record was required by the prevailing procedures to undergo a lie detector test.

After all, Rubinstein has, for the last quarter-century, been involved in matters of the highest sensitivity. HE FIRST came to the attention of defense minister Moshe Dayan as a result of his work in preparing Dayan's case before the Agranat Commission that investigated the Yom Kippur War. Thereafter, Dayan, then Menachem Begin's foreign minister, took Rubinstein with him to Camp David as his

would indicate that he is obliged to disqualify himself from serving on such a body. Moreover, as the government's legal adviser, he will be obliged to rule on issues on which he has already taken a stand.

Even if this arrangement can survive a High Court test, it does a disservice both to Rubinstein and to the government.

It would be best for all concerned if the matter did not reach judicial resolution. With Rubinstein's entry into the office of attorney-general, this is the proper time to fashion an alternative solution.

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi has appointed a distinguished committee, under the chairmanship of former Supreme Court president Meir Shamgar, to examine the method for appointing the attorney-general. It includes jurists with relevant public experience and Prof. Ruth Gavison, Israel's leading academic expert on the law of privacy and basic human rights.

Certainly any method designed to determine the character or credibility of the nominee falls within the terms of reference of that committee. Hanegbi should request the opinion of the Shamgar Committee with regard to the indispensability of a lie detector test, taking into account all the relevant factors, including the personal history of the nominee.

Rubinstein should be entitled to embark on his service as attorney-general without the albatross of the government's ill-considered lie detector committee around his neck.

The writer is a legal and political commentator.

# Let's salute this generation - here, now

We've heard an awful lot of talk about the decline of Zionism and its replacement with what has been called post-Zionism, characterized by individualism and an obsession with materialism.

But when one loses a lot, as the nation did last week, one tends to get a better perspective on what one actually has.

When so much has been spilled, as it was last week, one needs to look at the cup that is half-full. And then what one sees is a generation of young people who serve in the army dutifully, for the most part quietly, young men who serve in combat units, on the border, in southern Lebanon.

Last week's dead were a sampling of these young men. They were a true slice of Israeli youth. It seemed there were as many as there are cities and towns in Israel.

It may be true, as the critics of our times argue, that today's young people know less about their reli-

**JACOB L. DALLAL**

gion and their history than their parents, and certainly their grandparents, did. It may be true that their education is less complete, their culture more adulterated.

But those who lament the decline of Zionism should keep before them the image of those outposts in southern Lebanon; of those who, during cold winter nights and over treacherous summer days, are out there manning them.

These young soldiers are defending their country stoically, unassumingly, doing their duty without articulation.

Perhaps, instead of complaining about our youth, the critics could say that these young people and those who will follow them deserve a better education, a richer contemporary culture, a sounder base for their philosophy of life.

The past is there to be built upon, the future a matter for speculation.

Like those who fell last week. We should salute them for their courage, for their raw sense of right, for their service to their country, for their Zionism, as it is.

The writer is a freelancer.

# Out from under the rubble

**A.M. ROSENTHAL**

Most Korbels, Olga Korbels and Anna Spieglova were murdered almost a half-century ago. Now, at last, they are receiving what the living owe the dead of the Holocaust - to remember their names, and never to forget they were put to death in the gas chambers because they were Jews, for that reason only.

There is no lesson to be learned from the Holocaust except this: Evil beyond evil was done and can be done again, unless the living remember.

Now the true lives and manner of death of three grandparents are part of Madeleine Albright. As secretary of state, she is known around the world. Therefore so, now, are the lives and extermination of Arnost Korbels, Olga Korbels and Anna Spieglova.

There is so much to think about. If Albright's parents had given their child her right when she was little - to know the truth about her grandparents and, therefore, about herself - the world would have paid little attention to what had happened to Arnost Korbels, Olga Korbels and Anna Spieglova.

Three Jewish grandparents of an American official murdered in the Holocaust - it would have made a few paragraphs in the biographical handbook, some short feature stories.

But Albright was brought up a Christian, and the world is very interested to discover that she was never told by her parents that her paternal grandparents and her mother's mother were Jews murdered for that offense.

Still, would the world have cared if she were not so prominent? Stories of children brought up not knowing they were Jews have come up often, without getting much attention.

The granddaughter's energy made her secretary of state. Albright can take comfort from the fact it was her own achievement that inspired Michael Dobbs to look into her life. He turned out a fine piece of journalism for the Washington Post magazine.

cold and ill, and we wept. He was not a Jew, he told me, making not a big point, but a point. Months later he came to my house to say he was - but not to tell anybody.

Once I drove outside Warsaw to meet a Christian tavern keeper decorated for saving ghetto Jews. "I am not a Jew, you know," he said, but was proud to get packages from ghetto survivors in Israel or America.

A few drinks, and he leaned forward to whisper. That was a lie, he said. Nobody knew, not the Germans or Poles, not his Russian wife nor their son, but he was a Jew, a Jew - "on the Torah, it is true."

Ever since Poland - the night in the ghetto, the sight of Auschwitz, the hours listening to survivors who had clung to their Jewishness, as they did to their very souls - I have believed that memory of the Holocaust, intimate unending memory, is our duty certainly, our protection possibly.

Three years after I left Poland, then a nasty Communist dictatorship, I put the two incidents on paper.

Rereading them now, I realize that I wrote as though the stories were only about that writer and tavern keeper. I did not ask the names of their own Holocaust dead, or even how many there were.

I am sorry for that. Holocaust victims will keep returning as long as we remember them. Thank God.

Madeleine Albright can serve as a light toward Arnost Korbels, Olga Korbels and Anna Spieglova, and perhaps toward others, who are remembered, or have yet to return.

(Courtesy of the New York Times)

## Their names, their numbers, and the sole reason for their murder. The living owe it to the dead to remember

Fourteen years after World War II, the city was still strewn with the wreckage of the Germans' block-by-block destruction. The writer took me to a place of special emptiness. He said it was the ghetto. But where? There - he pointed to a few apartment houses on the edge of the emptiness, newly built on high mounds. Why were they built that strange way? I asked. He replied that it was cheaper to put them up over the rubble of the ghetto and the remains of Jews. The realization of what was beneath the buildings made us

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## NEWS

in brief

## Milosevic warns pro-democracy opponents

BELGRADE (AP) — Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic yesterday warned of swift action against pro-democracy protesters, but opposition to his autocratic rule appeared to be spreading to state television and other once-loyal media mouthpieces.

"Energetic action of the state institutions and the whole society is needed to counter crime, corruption and all other illegal actions," Milosevic said at a meeting of new members of his reshuffled government. His warning was a clear allusion to the opposition, which he and his neo-Communist wife, Mirjana Markovic, have branded as traitors, criminals, and foreign spies. Milosevic's warnings came amid reports from inside Serbian Television that some 110 employees of his chief media mouthpiece have signed a petition demanding the ouster of their director and freedom of the media.

## O.J. rejects Goldman offer to confess

SANTA MONICA, California (AP) — O.J. Simpson rejected a challenge from Fred Goldman that would have allowed the former American football great to avoid millions in damages if he signed a confession admitting he is a killer.

"No matter how much money I am offered, I would never confess to a crime which I did not commit," Simpson said Wednesday, through attorney Phillip Baker.

Goldman earlier told The AP in a telephone interview: "I don't want to play games. But if he wanted to sign a confession with all the details of his crime and broadcast it all over the country and publish it all over the nation, I would drop the judgment."

The aggrieved father, who never accepted Simpson's murder acquittal and doggedly pursued him to civil court, added: "All I ever wanted is justice. It's never been an issue about money."

## Pravda: Russian drinkers likely to back Yeltsin

MOSCOW (Reuters) — The more a Russian drinks, the more likely he or she is to support President Boris Yeltsin, according to an opinion poll published yesterday in the communist opposition newspaper Pravda-5. The newspaper said its poll questioned 2,404 people and showed that those who drink alcohol every day are 50 percent more likely to back Yeltsin than those who do not.

Abstainers or those who drink rarely are more likely to be proud of the Soviet years, themselves not marked by any fervor for teetotalism, and less likely to seek further economic reforms, the paper said.

Yeltsin himself has long been viewed as a man who enjoys his vodka, but Kremlin aides say he does not have a drinking problem.

## Suspected IRA sniper kills British soldier

By TOM COULTER

BELFAST (Reuters) — Britain and Ireland closed ranks against the IRA's political wing, Sinn Fein, yesterday after a suspected IRA sniper killed a soldier and rekindled fears of fresh sectarian war in Northern Ireland.

British Prime Minister John Major vowed he would not give in to the "murderous efforts" of the Irish Republican Army to force his government to invite Sinn Fein to peace talks from which the party is excluded because of IRA violence.

His Irish partners in the search for a lasting settlement to the 28-year Northern Ireland conflict also condemned the IRA for continuing to wage war to force an end to British rule.

Irish Prime Minister John Bruton told parliament the shooting on Wednesday night of a 23-year-old British sol-

dier was "an expression of something we wish to eradicate from our society — the use of violence to achieve political ends."

But Sinn Fein Chairman Mitchell McLaughlin told Irish radio that Major's refusal to admit the party to peace talks until the IRA ends its war was the reason the soldier died.

"John Major has responsibility for collapse of the peace process," he said. "I think if it [the killing] focuses people's attention on the tragic consequences of political failure then that soldier's young life will not have been in vain."

But British and Irish officials accused him of hypocrisy in expressing regret for an action they blamed on his IRA supporters.

Britain's Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, said it highlighted a "cynical contrast between words of peace and the crimes of murder."

Later, Northern Irish police said they had defused an

anti-personnel bomb left in the middle of a housing estate. The device contained a quantity of Semtex explosive as well as nuts and bolts. Rifles and pistols were found on the estate in the Armagh area where the British soldier was shot dead.

Major, staring defeat in the face at elections he must hold by May, vowed there would be no change to Britain's policy of refusing contact with Sinn Fein or inviting it to talks until the IRA called a permanent halt to its war.

"Let me make two promises — there will be no hiding place for the culprits — none at all — and I will not be deflected from the real search for a lasting settlement and peace in Northern Ireland." Pro-British politicians believe the IRA campaign, which began when it ended a 17-month ceasefire one year ago, is aimed at provoking revenge attacks by their pro-British Loyalist foes to make Northern Ireland ungovernable.

## Tajik warlord shoots hostage

By UMED BABAKHANYOV

DUSHANBE, Tajikistan (AP) — A rebel warlord had his gunman kill a United Nations military observer, one of 14 people being held hostage in the former Soviet republic, Russian news agencies said yesterday.

Both ITAR-Tass and Interfax cited their correspondents at the scene, who are also hostages. Neither identified the observer by name and the UN could not confirm the report.

Warlord Bakhran Sadirov had been holding 14 hostages: three

UN military observers, four UN refugee workers and their translator, four Russian journalists and their driver, and Tajikistan's security minister.

The Tajik government gave in yesterday to his demands to bring 40 guerrilla fighters home from neighboring Afghanistan. Sadirov had promised to free the hostages after the guerrillas were back, but suddenly he balked.

ITAR-Tass said its hostage correspondent, Galina Grigorieva, reported the killing in a telephone call to the agency. Interfax cited its captive correspondent, Suray Sobirova.



## Policeman shot dead in Albania

Demonstrators burn copies of the Albanian newspaper 'Albania,' which they say is controlled by the government, during a demonstration in Vlore yesterday. It was the ninth day of anti-government protests, hours after a policeman was shot dead. (Reuters)

## Suit filed against distribution of Swiss Holocaust fund

By MARILYN HENRY and TOM TUGEND

Lawyers backed by the Simon Wiesenthal Center have asked a US federal court to block the distribution of money from the Swiss "humanitarian fund," saying that such distribution would mean many survivors could never claim their assets.

The fund, which is now being established with an original contribution of \$70 million from three major Swiss banks, could threaten the ability of survivors and heirs to recover their assets from the banks, according to Michael Hausfeld, the lawyer who filed one of the three class-action suits against the Swiss banks on behalf of survivors.

Hausfeld told the court that the banks are transferring \$70 million that belongs to survivors and, in effect, are moving the survivors' assets from their reach.

Switzerland's government and banks have been negotiating with the World Jewish Restitution Organization, which is not affiliated with the lawsuits. The legal

action, however, may ultimately supersede these negotiations, as a court order would be more authoritative and impose greater accountability than an agreement with a voluntary organization.

The Swiss fund also faces challenges within the Jewish community, as there is increasingly public competition between and among Israeli officials, Jewish organizations and survivors' groups about who speaks for the survivors and how any money should be used.

Meanwhile, the Wiesenthal Center has petitioned the Swiss government to open an investigation of possible bank accounts opened by top Nazi officials in Swiss banks during World War II.

Accompanying the request to Swiss President Arnold Koller, the Wiesenthal Center submitted 334 names of men and women who possessed the power and wealth to transfer substantial assets out of Nazi Germany.

The list, which reads like a Who's Who of Hitler's Germany, includes top government and SS officials, bankers, industrialists

and art dealers.

Since accounts may have been opened under pseudonyms, or the maiden names of wives and mistresses, such names are also included. Listed in alphabetical order, the names range from Hermann Josef Abs, a banker who financed the industrial complex at Auschwitz, to Egon Zill, a concentration camp commandant.

Adolf Hitler is No. 140, and Adolf Eichmann is recorded under both his real name, and his alias, Ricardo Clement.

In his letter to Koller, Hier wrote that "We formally ask your government and the Swiss Bankers' Association, to begin a thorough search of all records of the Swiss banks operating during World War II to ascertain whether any of the individuals on this list held a Swiss bank account or safety deposit box from 1938 on."

"If an account was opened, what is its current status? If it was closed and the money withdrawn, when and by whom? If the funds were transferred to another country, which country and which bank?"

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The Rabin Medical Center  
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**Mrs. Lottie Reich**  
on the death of her  
**HUSBAND**

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The Faculty, Staff and Students of  
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extend heartfelt condolences to  
**Mrs. Bobbie Hartman**  
on the passing of her mother  
**BETTY WILNER** ז"ל

Shiva will be at 7 Graetz Street, Jerusalem  
from Saturday evening, February 15  
until Tuesday morning, February 18

On the second anniversary of the death of  
**DANIEL ROCKMAN**  
family and friends will gather at his grave on Sunday,  
February 16, at 3 p.m. at the Mount Herzl Military Cemetery.

The unveiling of the stone of our beloved  
**JUDY ROBERTS**  
will take place on Friday, February 21, 1997, at the  
Nave Hader cemetery in Hod Hasharon, at 1:00 p.m.  
The Technological Information Center at E.C.I. Telecom Ltd. will be  
dedicated in her memory, on Thursday, February 20, 1997, at 3:30 p.m.,  
at E.C.I., 30 Rehov Hasivim, Industrial Area, Petah Tikva.  
Paul Roberts and Children

With deep sorrow, we announce the death, on  
Wednesday, February 12, in Jerusalem, of  
**Rabbanit ESTELLE ETHEL  
ABRAHAMS** ז"ל  
widow of the late Chief Rabbi Israel Abrahams ז"ל  
of South Africa.

The funeral took place on February 12.  
Shiva at the home of her daughter, Dr. Rosalind Romem,  
7 Rehov Beit Hakerem, Jerusalem.

The Bereaved Family

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Mount Scopus, Jerusalem  
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שבת 14 בפברואר 1997

# NEWS in FOCUS

Friday, February 14, 1997

## A president at home with his people



It is a private moment in a public place. As Pauline Posner lights a memorial candle for her son Gidon, her husband Charles puts his arms around her from behind and buries his face in her hair. For some endless moments they stay that way. Mrs. Posner's head down, the couple rocking slightly in the small hotel lobby overlooking the Tel Aviv beach. Then in a quick change of mood, they straighten up their faces and get ready to meet the president.

By the week's end, President Ezer Weizman will have visited all of the 73 families whose sons were killed in last week's helicopter crash. But the president's visit to each family is no standard official tour, not for pomp nor publicity: it is a personal condolence call from a man who relates to each family on their own level. By speaking - and listening - to families from almost every stratum of Israeli society, this man of many faces seems to express the sorrow on behalf of the State of Israel.

It is 9 a.m. on Wednesday. The Posners have flown in from England to mourn their son Gidon, 22, a sergeant in the Nahal Brigade. His brother Simon, 26, who also served in the army and lives in Israel, sits between his parents and the president.

President Weizman sits up as straight as possible and sips his tea. He speaks of

**Ezer Weizman's 73 condolence visits strengthened the resolve of the mourners and provided a sense of national unity.**  
**Amy Klein trailed the president**

his impending visit to London to meet the Queen. "If we were in England, the Queen wouldn't sit with us, we'd get some cable expressing condolences," Mrs. Posner says. "It's very important for the Jewish community that you come to England," she adds. Then the president moves the conversation to Lebanon: "Obviously someone made a mistake," Weizman says speaking like a British native. "I know that this doesn't help you now, but it might help some people in the future."

"What I want to know is what I can do for you," he says, turning to Simon. "I want to strengthen the morale of the soldiers in Lebanon. That they should learn real Zionism from Gidon, so it shouldn't be a waste," Simon tells him. "God forbid," the president says as he leafs through the pages of

the photo album of Gidon, in uniform on the base, on kibbutz with his adopted family, or sitting in the field with his only brother. "God forbid."

Before he leaves, President Weizman gives Simon his phone numbers in Jerusalem and Caesarea and invites him for the weekend, "anytime."

"The president did this out of personal feelings," says Simon as the family crowds around the beachfront window to watch the departing car. "He has been through all this. He understands what we are going through."

**INDEED WEIZMAN** understands grief. In 1970, during the War of Attrition his son Shauli, a paratrooper, was severely wounded by a sniper fire. Then in 1991 Shauli and his new wife were killed in a car accident.

But it is more his personality that makes Weizman particularly suited for this monumental task. "He has no sense of 'distance,'" says one of the photojournalists who has followed the president during this whirlwind week. Weizman doesn't have any boundaries; throughout the day he talks to grieving families, MKs and mayors, security people and journalists in the same casual way: cajoling or caring, as if they were his army buddies from his long military career.

It is this guileless candor that has also worked against Weizman, earning him epithets of crude, abrasive and unfit for a diplomatic position.

Today though, it is this very characteristic that allows him to be so effective in the different homes, and he is forgiven for his sharp tongue - as he might be in the annals of history: warmth remembered, gaffes forgotten.

At a mourner's home in Migdal Ha'emek he talks to a bearded man in a suit sitting near the family. "What do you do?" Weizman asks.

"I learn [in yeshiva]. My wife supports me." In the silence one can almost hear Weizman deliberating whether to shoot out one of

Continued on Page 18



An honored guest at the homes of the fallen (from top left, counterclockwise): President Weizman (far right) pays a call to the family of Rafi Balalti in Migdal Ha'emek; visits the family of Hussein El Halb, an IDF Beduin tracker killed in the crash, in Zarzir; with Balalti's parents, Etli and Majlout; with Ra'aya Afner, mother of Avraham, in Kiryat Tivon. (Photos: Ariel Jerozolimski)

## Weizman redefines the role

By BATSHEVA TSUR

When history looks back on Ezer Weizman's term as president, it may well be this week's "whistle stop" tour of the 73 bereaved families, for which he will be most respected and remembered.

By its sheer physical and emotional scope, the journey across the length and breadth of the country to be with the families of the fighters during the week of mourning, was a unique event.

To the difficult task of sharing in grief, Weizman brings a sensitivity born of personal loss - his son, Shauli, who was wounded during the War of Attrition, later died in a car accident - and an example of

how it is possible to overcome it. Unlike most of his predecessors, and in the true tradition of a military man, Weizman has taken pains to visit almost all the IDF casualties in the hospitals and the bereaved families in their homes since assuming office. The alacrity with which he announced his decision to visit the families, on learning of the helicopter disaster, was therefore very much in keeping.

In May 1993, when Weizman assumed the presidency, there were pundits who said that the presidency had started with Weizman - Chaim, Israel's first president - and would end with Weizman - his nephew, Ezer. Chaim Weizmann, a renowned scientist, had been the archetype

for many of his successors, with the notable exception of Yitzhak Navon - an ivory-tower figure, who mainly met the nation on formal occasions and whose strength lay in putting across Israel's image to the politicians of the world. Weizman the second is perceived as a forthright and charming sabra.

With the adoption of the law for the direct election of prime minister - which relieved the president of the decision on whom to confer the formation of the government - many felt that the presidency had assumed a totally ceremonial nature. Strange then that the man voted in as Israel's seventh president should be a volatile former politician and air-force commander with a reputation for putting

his foot in his mouth and with little patience for the niceties of protocol.

And indeed, Weizman soon proved that words were not his strong point. There was his inaugural address in the Knesset which he rattled off like a military Order of the Day, and there was his mundane eulogy for Yitzhak Rabin at the state funeral, a missed historical opportunity.

On a different level, there were his unforgettable remarks about women ("meidele... I don't see men knitting socks," in the case of a young woman who wanted to be a pilot). There was the furor he succeeded in creating about the gays ("I like men who are men and women who are women").

And at the same time, he was kicking up the dust with remarks to the government. It started most notably with his call on Labor, the party that had voted him in, to "stop and think" about the peace process after the terrorist bombings a year ago. Many asked if Weizman was returning to his Likud affiliations.

And when the Likud-led government failed to move on the Hebron deal, there again was Weizman, this time reasserting the role of an architect of the Camp David accords.

And when Netanyahu failed to meet Yasser Arafat, it was Weizman who invited the PLO leader to Caesarea. And it was Weizman who succeeded in twist-

ing the prime minister's arm as Netanyahu stood by his side to say the Prime Minister's Office would decide on a date to meet with Arafat.

Two trends were clearly emerging. First, Weizman was putting issues on the agenda and to a large extent he had become a vox populi. With his direct manner and his willingness to leap into any place, conversation or situation, he had become the mouthpiece of the man on the street, making them feel "one of the boys."

The presidency was becoming, as he likes to say, "the one official institution which people get up in the morning and do not hate."

Secondly, and as a corollary, Weizman appeared to be building

up a power base of his own. The presidency began emerging as a kind of check-and-balance with the power of the prime minister, even though the presidential role was divested of executive teeth.

"I am staying in the country," Weizman declared shortly after taking up office, apparently in reference to the globe-trotting propensity of sixth president Chaim Herzog.

"Since then, Weizman has taken a few trips abroad and these have made a significant economic, and perhaps also diplomatic, impact. But it is on the home field where Weizman has scored his greatest victory - to prove that the post of an Israeli president is still significant.

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# I'm racist, you're racist

By THOMAS O'DWYER

"Are Israelis racist?" the visitor asked me. "Well of course they are," I replied, "unless you want to be racist enough to say they're not human."

"I'm racist, you're racist, we're all racist. Read your Bible. It's smite this one because he's a Stalactite. Smite that one because he's an Ammonite. Smite that miserable lot down in Gaza because they're... Well, they still are, aren't they?"

If you can put hand on heart and say you have never, ever sniped at someone and tossed in a mention of them being a German, a Moroccan, a Russian, a "stupid American" — and they're all Jews too — accept my apology and move on to another page.



O'Dwyer: Nasty people have given racism a bad name.

For the rest of fallible humankind, admit it — for someone, somewhere, you're a racist. Like George Bernard Shaw with the lady on the train, who admitted she might sleep with him for £5,000 but not for a fever, "we've established what you are; we're just haggling over how much."

You can live with people other people don't like, or even "let your daughter marry one" and still keep your own pet dislikes. Take the French and the Jews — my daughter married one of them, I married the other. As an ex-Catholic I feel comfortable with Jews — we like having everyone else and feeling guilty about it.

It is not politically correct to be healthy racist. Oh, dear me, not at all, especially in paranoid, no-self-esteem, silly America. Some very nasty people have given common, everyday racism a bad name.

Of course if you are super-politically correct, then you can meet yourself coming from the other direction and be as racist as you like. I have in mind one of those intense Afrocentric revisionists that guilty America indulges like spoilt children of late. He lectures in universities on the theme that the ancient Greeks "stole" their staggering culture from, er, Africa.

Those Greeks! What can you expect from the sort of people who sleep with their own mothers? Trust them to develop an advanced culture a sneaky thousand years too early so they could conceal the fact

that they really stole it from some superbly advanced place like, say, 21st-century Rwanda or Burkina Fasso.

I was first accused of being a racist when I was at primary school. Our headmistress, wishing to impress the visiting senior parish priest, foolishly threw the class open for questions "of a religious nature." I asked why it was, if priests took a vow of poverty, the three parish priests were the only people in our district with cars.

I don't remember whatever answer was mumbled from behind the red faces, but I do remember the nasty second half of the day after the priest left — a blur of swishing cane and shrill pleas that God and his saints save the teacher from Satan's spawn such as myself.

By the time I was a teenager, I was out-of-the-closet anti-clerical and proud of it, expanding it to all sly religious "leaders" everywhere who preach don't steal, hate, kill, lie or fornicate to lesser mortals while using erudite texts to justify doing it themselves.

Yes a little anti-ism can be a very sane and healthy thing. Today it is becoming a necessary vaccine against the intellectual AIDS epidemic of political correctness with their Thought Tippers.

The analogy is not bad — you take a little of a virus which otherwise can be lethally virulent, kill it in an infusion of humor, and inject it into your healthy cynical glands. The banality of evil is bad enough, but the seriousness of really despising one's fellow men, women, Arabs, Jews, leftists, Bosnians, Chechens takes all the fun out of it.

When I first went to work in Dublin, the merciless factory floor in the printing works recognized my accent as Tipperary and launched into stream of "culchie" (backwoods) jokes and jeers. Here I was swallowing the same indignities we superior Tipperary folks had for years heaped on helpless "stupid" kids from Cork.

I had to go through it all again in England — some of it not so funny, for the Brits are among the world finest (though sneakiest) racists. (As we say, British justice is a system that ensures a person is deemed innocent until proved Irish.)

In eastern Canada, I again left the ranks of the persecuted to become a persecutor — the poor "old Newfoundlanders" ("Newfies") flitted every Irish joke I and my British Brit friends had ever heard. Of course, there are probably fewer jokes about Canadians than about any other race on earth. They're so boring, no one bothers. That's really racist.

I can't say I've seen or experienced much worse (or better) racism in Israel than anywhere else — although the "kill the Arabs" mantra freezes my blood. How about changing it to a more traditional "smite the Arabs?"

Of course, now that I'm an Israeli citizen and have lived here for so long, people ask the inevitable lurking question — have I considered becoming a Jew, and if not, why not — know what I mean? No I have not. Why? Didn't you watch the "conversion rabbi" on television this week? I can't afford it. I'm not Jewish.

# Strangers in our midst:



(Photo illustration by Jamie Levine)

## Taunts, stares, insults, exploitation

Blacks and Asians have a tough time here, Judith Sudilovsky reports

Once upon a time in Israel, in 1993, there was a soccer player named Cyril Makanaka who came from Cameroon to play for Maccabi Tel Aviv. He stayed for a season. But then he left. He couldn't deal with the gorilla sounds the fans made when he came on the field or being pelted with bananas.

It seems Israeli sport aficionados were used to seeing tall black men playing on their basketball teams, but a dark player running to score a goal just didn't fit into their perception of the sports world. Calls of "Death to the Arabs," during certain soccer matches have become a common enough occurrence that they barely raise eyebrows anymore.

Although Israel is no longer as racially homogeneous as it was in the early days, it is not always easy for foreigners to feel comfortable. It can be as subtle as the whispering of "gorilla" when a black man walks by, or as blatant as making slanted-eye faces at an Asian or as outright disdainful as paying a Chinese employee less than an Israeli because he comes from a "poor" country anyway and doesn't know any better.

But is this racism or simply ignorance mixed together with a smattering of Israeli arrogance?

"I wouldn't say it is strictly an issue of racism," said Jaiwon Kim, 34, a post-doctoral student in the physics department at the Hebrew University originally from Korea. "But sometimes Israeli manners

are rather strange. Some people act extra polite and others are extremely rude. Sometimes I go to the supermarket and they tease me about being Chinese. I get upset."

Once Kim was walking through Mea She'arim and a woman walked straight up to her and stared right at her face. Kim, who spent eight years studying at Louisiana State University in the US and is used to being the odd woman out, just stared right back. A lot of times she walks down the street and children call after her "Chinese, Chinese" or "Japanese, Japanese," she said.

"People have a tendency to look at me," she said. "But here it doesn't matter if they are kids or adults, that's the difference with the United States. Here people show their curiosity much more. Curiosity is one thing. America is more racist. Here they are so busy with their own problems."

But, said Ben-Gurion University psychology professor Dan Bar-On, Israelis may be so busy dealing with security, political and economical issues that they don't have enough energy left over to learn how to integrate and accept "the other" into their society.

"It is a combination of indifference and curiosity. It's too easy to call it racist. It is more a lack of energy, empathy and acceptance,"

he said.

Thirty-three-year-old John Brown, an African-American who converted to Judaism while he was still a teenager in Missouri and came to Israel in 1983, has felt this lack acceptance various times. Once on Tisha Be'av he was doing his military service on an army base near the Dead Sea. Some haredim on the base were looking for a 10th man for a *minyan* and Brown, who sports a knitted kippa, was standing nearby, ready

**"We work here the same as Israelis but get paid less. I don't feel good about that."**

—Yung Chun

to join them. But they looked right through him. They had no luck finding somebody else, but by the time they were ready to turn to him, Brown had walked off in disgust.

"In Mea She'arim people stare

at you — especially if you wear a kippa. I've felt [racism] more from the religious 'black hat' community, but thankfully I've been really quite lucky. It depends on who you hang out with," said Brown.

"You even see racism in North Tel Aviv, especially from the old Polish generation. It's a weird feeling. But they even [look down] on North Africans."

But Brown said he sees "it" as a lack of education, not necessarily racism in the pure sense. The attitude also involves the whole issue of distrust towards non-Jews, he said. "It's something which has more to do with the need for a change of character of society and it is going to take a while to happen, like in any society," he said. The inevitable integration of Ethiopians into universities and higher-profile positions will eventually help Israeli society become more accepting of diversity, he said.

YUNG CHUN Wong, a 34-year-old doctoral student in molecular biology from China conducting research at Hadassah Hospital, has in general felt good about her stay in Israel and takes the curious stares she encounters good-naturedly. She enjoys the work she is doing here and the relationship

she has with her colleagues, she said.

However, some of her Chinese friends have not been so lucky. They feel exploited by Israeli bosses who pay them half or two-thirds of what their Israeli counterparts are paid for doing the same work.

"We work here the same as Israelis but get paid less. I don't feel good about that," she said. "I feel that is not fair. I feel shocked. I don't want to come here to work as a slave."

Wong and her friends have learned to take the jibes they sometimes feel in stride, she said. "They treat even Russian Jews not so good, and I won't even mention the Arabs," she said.

All national groups have the problem of learning how to do of humanities at Tel Aviv University. It is, he said, a question of self-identity and for Jews the problem is magnified because of their history of persecution in the Diaspora.

"Every human group has the tendency to deny the other in order to preserve and define its self-identity. We have to fight this tendency, which means it is a never-ending job," said Dascal. "We have to impart to our children the clear idea that all people are human beings like us and have the same basic rights as we do. We have to do this for everybody — including the street-cleaners, the Romanian construction workers.

Continued on Page 18

## Were we not all created by God?

Sarah Shapiro recounts a sorry story of a black Jew from Harlem who came round for Shabbat

That Friday night when my husband answered the door, perhaps my body language gave me away.

The first I had heard of Andy was from the head of his yeshiva here in Jerusalem, who called to ask if we could have a Shabbat guest. This particular young man, said the rabbi, was a black American convert from New York City, an exceptionally gifted and promising student. We'd be sure to enjoy his company.

I suppose I had expected some sort of coffee-colored version of a nice Jewish boy from Manhattan's Upper West Side to walk through my door. Although the person who entered our home sported the uniform black hat and suit of any other yeshiva student, as far as my habitual responses were concerned, this was just the kind of guy I'd avoid in the New York City subways.

Head lowered shyly as if to sense out the premises, Andy (not his real name) peered around inquisitively as he walked in. Possibly in response to whatever mixed messages I as hostess was giving off, his posture conveyed apology.

As our awkward, forced conversation got off the ground, we learned that our guest did indeed come from Manhattan's upper west side, but not The Upper West Side, of Rabbi Riskin's Lincoln Square Synagogue on 67th. Andy came from Harlem, the unknown and foreign land past 125th Street — to my mind, the other side of the moon.

He politely obliged my irrepressible curiosity about his past, though (to my chagrin) I would later find out that wherever he went on Shabbat, people always asked him the same question. How,

I inquired, did you find Judaism? My unarticulated emphasis was audible even to my own ears: "How did you ever find Judaism there?"

Andy told the story. One Saturday morning when he was 15, his mother had awakened him with this unexpected exhortation, "Come on, son, hurry. You and I are going to synagogue."

"Synagogue?" he murmured. "That's for the Jews, isn't it?"

Thus was he introduced to a religiously observant congregation in Harlem, of Black Americans practicing Judaism, numbering around 1,000 members, whose dogma maintains that it is they and not the Europeans who are the historical descendants of the Biblical Hebrews. So-called Ashkenazi Jews, in their view, are deluded by a millennium-long case of mistaken identity.

Andy then immersed himself in the Torah, finding himself increasingly excited to have come upon what his instincts told him constituted truth.

But as time went on, he also came across what appeared to be inconsistencies in the congregation's dogma, and questions arose in his mind that begged investigation elsewhere. He sought out information at Manhattan's National Council of Synagogue Youth, where he ended up studying for a year, before undergoing Orthodox conversion. At their suggestion, he eventually came to

Israel for more intensive learning.

BY THE end of the evening, it was obvious that we were in the presence of one of those rare bright young men whose sharpness of intellect is matched by a depth of compassion. In order to pursue his Torah learning, he was enduring alienation from his closest family and friends back home. And had forgone — he told us this wryly, with an enigmatic, sad little smile — his position of honor in the congregation: they hoped that Andy would be the Jewish Messiah.

It emerged in conversation that he was not in his late twenties, as his demeanor had led us to assume, but 18, a teenager not much older than our own. But he had already acquired a maturity that belied his years. He said that he loved the learning and loved Jerusalem. We asked if he was going to stay. Yeah, there was a minor problem that would have to be worked out, but he was planning on making aliya.

Problem? What's the problem? Well... with the children.

The children? You mean your brothers and sisters in New York? No... Here?

You mean the Arabs? No... the Jewish kids. From some of the neighborhoods around here. They say things. They point, laugh, that kind of thing. I know it shouldn't bother me, they're just kids. Rabbi S. is trying to do something about it. And there's another black guy in the yeshiva. He says

he knows what I'm talking about, he's had to deal with it. He says the answer is to just get deeper into the learning. It doesn't bother him so much, maybe because he's older. For me, it's getting so every time I go out on the street, I'm kind of looking around for the kids.

Andy came to us for Shabbat dinner two or three more times that winter. *Gemara* was getting more and more interesting, he told us. He and his study companion were getting the gist of learning with each other better and better all the time. And the situation with the Israeli children? Well, he was working on it in his own mind. This was where he wanted to be. Jerusalem was the right place for him.

Then one day I ran into Andy at the grocery store. Ahead of me in line, he wished me a happy holiday and I asked how things were going. He said the yeshiva was going very well, thank you. And the thing with the children? He looked me in the eye. "I don't know if I can take it anymore."

"What do you mean? You wouldn't leave Israel because of that, would you, Andy?"

"I don't know what to do. It gets to me," he said. That was the last time I saw him. I called the yeshiva a few weeks later to invite him for Shabbat and the secretary said he had returned to the States.

Shall we attribute his departure to our country's children behaving like children? Or to Israeli parents' gross failure to passionately inculcate the most basic of Jewish values: respect for the other, who was created by God — the other, who is not like you.

Where are you now, Andy? And who in the world do we think we are?



Strange  
For the  
of Zio  
Judith Sudilovsky

When Taty  
met Hussa

Handwritten text in Arabic script: "بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم"





A mob of angry young men roamed the streets. The night cracked with the sound of windows breaking, shattered by rocks hurled with a vengeance. Incited by shouts of "Kill the Jew," roving youths pounced on the passer-by and fatally stabbed him. The riots that lasted for four hot August nights and days in 1991 made Crown Heights famous. No longer known as the base of Habad, the Brooklyn enclave became synonymous with a modern "pogrom."

And Yankel Rosenbaum, who was knifed simply for being a Hassid, became the bloody symbol of the Jew, threatened by neighbors, and betrayed by authorities who failed to come to the rescue.

Five years later, the US federal government prevailed where the state of New York had failed. Earlier this week, two black men were convicted in federal court of violating Rosenbaum's civil rights. The jury found Charles Price incited the mob, and Lemrick Nelson Jr., now 21, was the youth who had stabbed Rosenbaum, a native of Australia. Several years earlier, a state court had cleared Nelson on

criminal murder charges, which seemed to confirm Jewish suspicions that there was no justice in Brooklyn.

When the guilty verdicts were announced, New York remained eerily quiet. It was not the lull that precedes a storm, but a clue that Crown Heights, traumatic though it was, was not the prism through which to view black-Jewish relations.

In fact, there may be no prism at all.

"The reality is that there is no one black-Jewish relationship, but many different kinds of relationships," said Jonathan Rieder, the co-editor of *Common Quest: The Magazine of Black-Jewish Relations*. These relations, though, added Rieder, tend to be measured by highly sensational spectacles: the Reverend Jesse Jackson referring to New York as "Hymie town," the sizzling speeches of the Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, the riots in Crown Heights.

"These extraordinary moments become ritual spectacles that simplify what is a complicated reality," Rieder said. "We look at these

# Justice in Brooklyn

Verdicts were handed down in the Crown Heights murder case this week, Marilyn Henry reports

moments when the two communities seem to be squaring off when, in fact, there are millions of ordinary African-American and Jewish people who do not hate one another and who are not part of these frenzies."

When it comes to gauging relations, "Crown Heights is an aberration," said Rieder, who also serves as the chairman of the sociology department at Barnard College, Columbia University.

The view of race relations also is clouded by nostalgia. "Black-Jewish relations were never as good as the romance suggests and not nearly as dire as the headlines imply," Clarence Page, an African-

American syndicated columnist, said.

But what a romance. The Jews were disproportionately active in the American civil rights movement, drawing on a tradition of sympathy toward blacks that stretched back to the days of the great influx of immigrants from Eastern Europe. These Jewish immigrants were did not adopt white racism, which, at its most egregious, was notorious for abducting and lynching blacks.

"Eastern European Jews saw in the lynching of blacks a parallel to the pogroms they had suffered," Rieder said.

In Crown Heights, the histories of

blacks and Jews later would haunt events by highlighting their different ways of framing the world. Yet, on most days, Crown Heights was "not a bad approximation of coexistence," Rieder said.

While many Jews are in suburban or urban sanctuaries, the Hassidim live an integrated existence with blacks, who themselves are an eclectic community of African-Americans and Afro-Caribbeans, people from the West Indies. It is a neighborhood of klezmer and calypso, Rieder said. "Here are two peoples trying to work out how to belong to America while maintaining what is unique about their religion, music, and cuisine."

THE 1991 riots in Crown Heights began on the evening of August 19, when the driver of a car in the motorcade of the Lubavitcher rebbe struck a seven-year-old black boy named Gavin Cato, who was playing on the sidewalk. The child's death, though accidental, was the catalyst for the disturbances.

The police did not arrest the driver, Yosef Lifsch, which was seen as a double standard in law enforcement. Their rumors began flying that a Jewish volunteer ambulance service refused to treat black victims in favor of the driver. What had happened, though, was that police had told the ambulance crew to take the driver from the scene to ease the tension after officials saw black men assaulting those in the Lubavitch vehicle, the state report said.

The police reaction to the death of Gavin Cato, seen in the light of black experience with the American legal system, seemed to prove to many blacks that they would not get fair treatment. For the Jews, the police inaction in quelling the uproar fueled their worst fears.

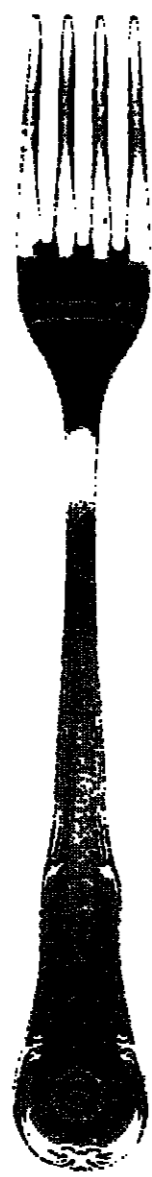
Imagine, said Rieder, Lubavitchers in Crown Heights, for whom the lesson "never again" is vital, living wisdom. "And now rioters are on the street breaking their windows and the police are not maintaining order," he said. "All of these [people] could easily take that terror and trauma as a sign that it could happen again, it is Kristallnacht. You could wrap what is urban conflict in America into some grander Jewish narrative of the abandonment and attack on the Jews."

In the weeks after the riots, dozens of churches in Brooklyn and Manhattan gave powerful denunciations of antisemitism and the killing of Yankel Rosenbaum. But the killing of Yankel Rosenbaum, if they were overshadowed, "if you are a Jew and look around America at people saying hateful things about Jews, African-Americans are quite visible," Rieder said.

Just as many Lubavitchers viewed the riot through the Jewish experience and saw Kristallnacht, the Afro-Caribbeans and African-Americans in Crown Heights peer through a legacy of racial resentment.

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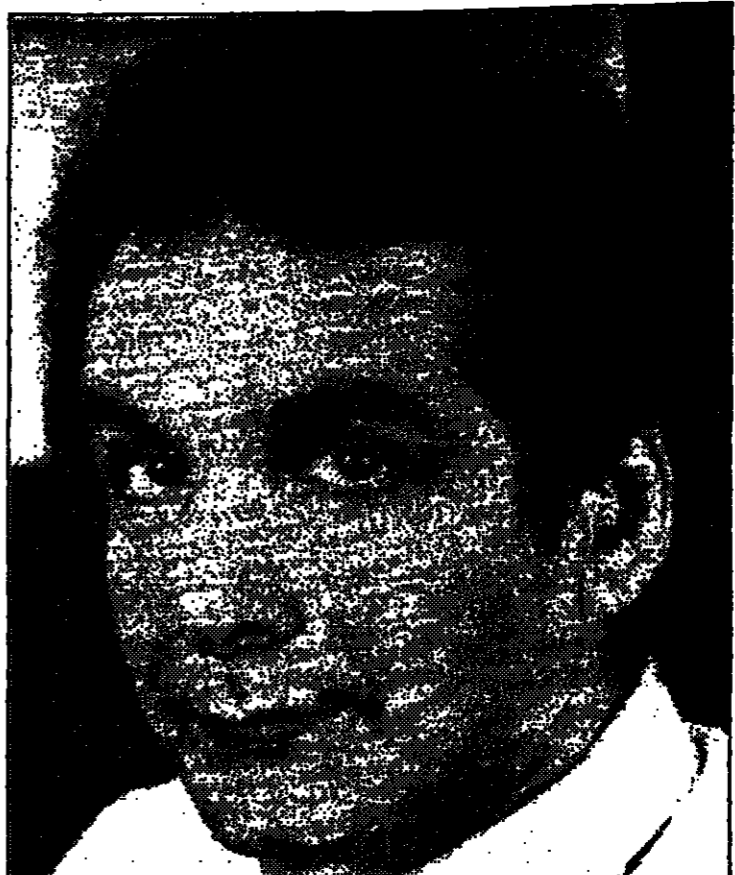
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## On the right side of the issues

Charles Krauthammer, the unpredictable, confrontational, neo-conservative journalist, talks to Hillel Kuttler in Washington



Krauthammer 'has been to the future, and it works.'

AFTER Israel's shelling of a UN camp in Qana, south Lebanon, last April, killing more than 100 Lebanese refugees, much of the media asked why the IDF fired and whether Hizbullah had provoked it.

Syndicated columnist Charles Krauthammer had a different take. "What are well-armed UN troops doing allowing guerrillas to fire rockets from within yards of a UN camp? After all, the UN itself says that each UNIFIL post 'is assigned responsibility for ensuring that hostile activities are not undertaken from the areas surrounding it,'" he wrote in the weekly *Standard*, a new American conservative magazine.

When he writes about the Middle East, which he does regularly, Krauthammer maintains that many things aren't right. He has criticized PLO chairman Yasser Arafat for evading Palestinian commitments under the Oslo accords and pronounced himself "absolutely staggered" by Labor's initiation of what he calls not a peace process but a "withdrawal process." Krauthammer also finds

Secretary of State Warren Christopher contemptible for leading what he calls a "hopelessly misguided" foreign policy meant to draw Syrian President Hafez Assad into reaching a peace treaty with Israel.

Then there is Assad. In a *Washington Post* column last June, Krauthammer penned a fictional letter from President Clinton to Assad that opened: "Dear Hafez: You sonofabitch."

Within days, a letter to the editor criticized the paper for permitting a key Arab leader to be mocked in this manner. The author, however, is unrepentant. "Sonofabitch is actually a mild term to describe a world-class thug and butcher," Krauthammer says now. "Even if it had not been a satiric column, even if I had meant it seriously, it would have been perfectly appropriate.... I think it's absolutely disgraceful how we sugar-coat the real nature of some of the thugs on the planet."

Having said that, Krauthammer might still have excused the US approach. "I am not against immoral foreign policies if they

work," he says.

MANY WASHINGTON columnists create a niche and park themselves in it, be it foreign affairs, domestic policy, or social justice. While such matters capture his fancy, Krauthammer is apt to tackle any topic. He torpedoes to the heart of an issue and articulates an argument in a way that leaves admirers impressed by the surprising logic of it all.

In short, Krauthammer, 46, is unpredictable. He wrote one *Post* column glorifying the film *Independence Day*. In a *Time* magazine piece, he wrote, in awe, of how IBM's Deep Blue computer won a game against chess champion Garry Kasparov.

Although a conservative, he's hard to pin down. In the *Post* he criticized plans to transfer a sex criminal to a mental hospital after his prison sentence was completed. He loves books and newspapers but is certain the Internet will eventually supplant them because he has "been over to the future, and it works."

He also cut against the grain of an America that cast Shannon Lucid as a hero for her recent marathon visit to outer space. To Krauthammer, "spending six months in an orbiting phone booth with a couple of guys named Yuri is an apt reflection on our times of domesticated, miniaturized aspirations."

Even when he doesn't have a particular issue in mind, "The Lord provides, with stunning regularity, somebody, somewhere, who does something outrageous, moronic, hilarious, unbelievable, parodic" to write about.

Says Gordon Peterson, a local anchorman on whose weekly program *Inside Washington* Krauthammer is a regular panelist: "He's absolutely brilliant. If I come up one person short, I can use him on both sides. But you can't pigeonhole him, that he'll argue the conservative line.... He was one of the first people to say

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Cabinet's anti-strike plan raises storm

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

THE cabinet's secret emergency regulations to prevent strikes in the public sector, which were revealed yesterday by Yehudi Aharonov, raised a storm, as some public figures accused the government of trying to destroy labor relations here.

The Histadrut, which knew about the regulations when they were enacted in December but did not publicize them, intends to petition the High Court of Justice against them next week. The large labor unions will meet on Sunday to decide on their moves to fight the government.

Labor and Meretz MKs blasted what they called the cabinet's attempt to "break" the workers, saying the moves violate laws protecting the right to organize and strike.

The regulations, which authorize the prime minister and finance minister to order people to work in the public sector and government corporations, were signed secretly on the night of December 30, 1996. This was after the Histadrut announced a warning strike to protest a cabinet decision to slash child allowances and impose fees on doctor's visits.

Under the regulations, the right to issue work orders is no longer limited to vital services, but encompasses the entire public sector, including the rabbinical courts, health funds and local authorities. Histadrut Chairman MK Amir Peretz said "the cabinet has given the prime minister

COMMENT

Gov't regularly issues emergency orders, says expert

By EVELYN GORDON

The government's promulgation of emergency orders to prevent public-sector strikes is nothing out of the ordinary, unless there is something "very unusual in their content," Prof. Abraham Diskin of Hebrew University's political science department said yesterday.

Diskin said the authority to issue such regulations stems from an order passed by the pre-Knesset Provisional Council of State, four days after the State of Israel was established. This order said that in a state of emergency, the cabinet can suspend laws passed by the Knesset in order to accomplish a defined list of goals. One of these goals is ensuring the uninterrupted supply of essential services, which means the order can be used to prevent strikes in certain industries, Diskin said.

and finance minister sweeping authority intended for a state of war. It means that the premier or finance minister could charge a striking worker with the extremely grave offense of violating emergency orders, and send the army into work places. This is a violation of one of the most important basic human rights in the country."

Labor MK Shlomo Ben-Ami called the cabinet's move "an insufferable scandal."

He urged the formation of a coalition of MKs from the Gesher faction in the Likud, Labor, Meretz and the Histadrut to ensure the legislation of basic workers' rights, which he stressed are no less important than other basic rights pertaining to human liberty and dignity.

Meretz MK Dedi Zucker yesterday submitted a bill to cancel the "state of emergency" that has officially prevailed since

1948, which enables the enactment of such emergency regulations against strikers.

"It is unthinkable that we should be living in an emergency situation since 1948, as though we're in the midst of the siege on Jerusalem," he said.

Meridor tried to evade commenting on the regulations yesterday, saying he wasn't "familiar with the exact details."

"dozens" of cases in which the Knesset did agree to extend such regulations, he added.

With the passage of the new Basic Law: The Government, which establishes direct elections for the prime minister, a new constitutional situation was created, Diskin said. This law states that the Knesset must renew the state of emergency every year, or else it automatically expires. However, he said, this provision does not take effect for the first time until a year after the law itself takes effect - and since the law took effect only in May 1996, the Knesset must reaffirm the state of emergency for the first time only in May 1997, he said.

Finally, Diskin said, it is ridiculous to speak of the regulations being promulgated "secretly." Like all government regulations, they are published in the official gazette, *Rashumot*, for anyone to see, he said.

WEATHER table showing forecasts for Galilee, Health, Beer Sheva, Ashdod, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Beersheba, and Dead Sea.

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear, slight rise in temperatures. Shabbat: Additional rise in temperatures.

Tsomet: We'll bolt gov't over Jerusalem construction

By STEVE RODAN and Nim

Tsomet will leave the government coalition unless it goes ahead with plans to build Jewish homes in eastern Jerusalem, Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled said yesterday.

Peled issued the threat as Netanyahu met with US President Bill Clinton in Washington. "I see this trip as a fateful one," Peled said. "And President Clinton has to know that the government is not in his pocket. It will fall unless there is a decision to build in Jerusalem. Tsomet, myself included, and other MKs, about 20 of us, cannot be in this government."

Earlier this week, Netanyahu said that when he returns from the US the Ministerial Committee on Jerusalem will decide when to start construction in the planned neighborhood of Har Homa.

But Peled said he is skeptical that Netanyahu will act without the threat of a coalition crisis.

"Without a crisis nothing will be achieved," Peled said.

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza, however, told a meeting of



A woman walks past a Jerusalem bulletin board yesterday plastered with signs reading 'Bibi [Netanyahu] will divide Jerusalem.' (Brian Henders)

the Likud Secretariat yesterday that the nay-sayers should judge the government by its deeds, and not make irresponsible comments.

In a related development, Knesset Education Committee chairman Emmanuel Zissman filed a police complaint against

the Al-Quds University in eastern Jerusalem. Zissman claimed that Al-Quds advertises itself as a degree-grant-

ing institution, though it is not accredited to grant degrees by the Council for Higher Education, as is required by Israeli law.

ISRAEL'S No. 1 EL-DANIT 9 PER DAY advertisement for cellular phones with contact information for various Israeli cities.

AROUND THE WORLD table showing weather and temperature forecasts for various international locations.

STEIMATZKY INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLERS IN PAPERBACK advertisement featuring books like 'THE LAST DON', 'PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD', 'LOVE IN ANOTHER TOWN', and 'CHOICES'.

Nessim Gaon's lawyers claim son-in-law held illegally

By ELDAD BECK

PARIS - Lawyers representing Swiss businessman Nessim Gaon, who is facing bribery charges in France, say that the detention of Gaon's son-in-law, Yoel Herzog, son of former president Chaim Herzog, violates international law.

Herzog, 47, has been held by authorities in the French town of Grasse since he presented himself to police there at the beginning of December.

Herzog and Gaon are suspected of bribing Cannes Mayor Michel Mouillot. According to French police, Gaon's group, which operates the Noga Hilton Hotel and the Casino Riviera in Cannes, transferred FFr 1.5 million (more than NIS 900,000) to Mouillot to get a license to operate the casino.

The Gaon group's lawyers claim Mouillot blackmailed the board of the Noga Hilton.

French police authorized an arrest warrant for Gaon and Herzog in December, after the Casino Riviera manager told police that Herzog, who is the chairman of the Gaon group board of directors, ordered him to transfer the money to Mouillot.

Several days later, Herzog, who has Israeli and Swiss citizenship, but resides mainly in Switzerland, presented himself to the authorities, who arrested him. Initially, police said he was detained to prevent him from contacting the other suspects. Then they said that Herzog would be held until a meeting could be arranged between him, the casino manager and Mouillot.

Sources closed to the investigation said they suspect that Herzog gave himself up to cover Gaon.

Gaon was released on Tuesday, following his first court hearing. He returned to Switzerland, saying he was confident that Herzog would soon be freed.

Great careers! advertisement for Professional Career Development Institute listing various career paths and services.

HAHOF HOTEL Ashkelon advertisement for Passover celebrations featuring Simcha Raz and lectures on the Exodus.

The Jerusalem Post & ZOA House Friday Morning Forum advertisement for a 'QUO VADIS?' Q&A session with Haim Ramon and Michael Kleiner.

BIBLE LANDS MUSEUM JERUSALEM advertisement for a Saturday Night Concert featuring Trio - Violin, Cello & Piano.

TRAVEL WITH THE EXPERTS advertisement for Middle East tours to Jordan, Egypt, and Israel, featuring Mazda Tours.

Vertical text on the far right edge of the page, including 'POST', 'Mordechai', 'Primary inflation', '0.4 percent', 'Mordchai', 'cepts in', 'propos', and 'Kfar Ramon Albert'.